

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Adrian Tenecela, I am a resident from Danbury.

I stand in support of S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS. Expanding access to HUSKY up to age 18 regardless of immigration status is an important step in ensuring our immigrant community has access to the healthcare we need. But our work doesn't end with expanding access up to age 18; we need to open access to HUSKY and healthcare to all immigrants of any age, including parents and adults.

This matters to me because I am part of the community and I have seen members of the community struggle because they do not have access to healthcare.

Lack of healthcare causes indecision to seek immediate help that would be devastating if not sought. Treatable injuries and preventable diseases could have been attended to early, however the lack of healthcare causes many individuals to live unnecessarily difficult lives.

My community's access to healthcare would benefit the entire state. First with easing the tension relating to if getting checked up by a professional or not is worth gambling with one's health, and secondly give the community the peace of mind to continue progressing and adding to the value of Connecticut.

I support S.B. 284 and I ask the committee to support and pass this legislation. Looking forward, I ask the committee to work towards opening access to all immigrants regardless of age.

Thank you for your time,

Adrian Tenecela